Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 8, No. 50 TORONTO, DECEMBER 8, 1943 $2.00 Per Annum

Paper Cut Hurts Rural Houses

Film Men on Stand At Naiman Inquest

The wartime metal shortage was an important factor in the recent film exchange fire, it was revealed at the inquest on the death of Herbert Naiman, projectionist. Both Winslow Brown, in charge of supplies for Regal Films, and

(Continued on Page 2)

Pioneer Session Elects New Board

A new board of directors was appointed by a vote of members attending the fourth annual meeting of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, held at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on December 2nd. Clair Hague presided. The

(Continued on Page 2)

Recreation Centre on FPC St. John Site

J. J. Fitzgibbons, meeting with the Common Council of St. John, New Brunswick, agreed on behalf of Famous Players to allow the National War Services to erect a recreation centre on property acquired for a theatre after the war.

The agreement is for one year, then from month to month until government building restrictions are withdrawn, and for one year after.

The Council agreed not to grant a permit for the erection of a theatre within a half-mile.

Begin Repairs On Passe Temps, Mont'l

Z. Lavigeur, 10551 Grande Allee is awarded general contract, and work is starting on general repairs to Passe Temps Theatre, 1584 Mt. Royal Ave. E., Montreal, for J. A. Aird, Wood and Coal Merchant, 1588 Mount Royal Ave. E.

Approximate cost is $4,000.

New Order Eliminates Show Cards And Reduces Heralds to Handful

Exhibitors' and printers' associations met last week in various parts of the Dominion to frame requests for a revision of Order No. 332 of the Canadian War Orders and Regulations, issued by the WPTB, which makes drastic restrictions in the use of papers.

Theatres which rely mainly on heralds and window cards are hit hard by Section 10, which states that "No person shall display after December 1st, 1943, any printed poster, bill or card advertising any event for which an admission fee is charged or is to be charged except on the premises where that particular event is to

(Continued on Page 2)

Same as Picking Paul's Pockets

Paul Maynard who, like most of us, places an occasional wager on a sporting event, was party to something that had On the Squareheads agog with suspense.

Seems that Paul started a football parlay some weeks ago and the total increased fast and large. The other Saturday the last game in the parlay was played between Notre Dame and Great Lakes.

Paul had Notre Dame, a 4 to 1 favorite. But Great Lakes pulled an upset and snatched $2,400 bucks right out of Paul's palm.

Silver Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Freedman celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on December 1st. Freedman is president of the Independent Motion Picture Exhibitors Association.

Musicians Not Yet Through With Us

"We recognize the problem," said Joseph A. Padway, counsel for the American Federation of Musicians, referring to the displacement of live music by movies before the War Labor Board in New York, "and we'll open a second front when feasible." Just now, he continued, "It would take every penny of the $1,500,000 in the A. F. of M. treasury to wage a fight against the movies, and it would be a losing fight."

Eastern Theatres

A dividend of 50 cents on common stock has been declared by the directors of Eastern Theatres, Ltd. It is payable December 31st to shareholders of record December 15th.

Board of Trade Studies 16 Mm's

The Motion Picture Branch of the Toronto Board of Trade, at its annual meeting last week, held in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, went on record against competition between 16 mm. and 35 mm., declaring also that 16 mm. films

(Continued on Page 6)

General Theatre's Big Bond Issue

Public offering is being made of $500,000 first mortgage bonds, Series A, of the General Theatre Investment Company, Limited.

The Series A issue is divided equally between $250,000 Serial 3 per cent and 3½ per cent bonds maturing Dec. 1, 1944-1948, and

(Continued on Page 11)

New Royalties Grab Will Be Opposed

Arguments against the issuance of a license to the American Performing Right Society will be made by Norman S. Robertson, K.C., in behalf of the Musical Protective Society of Canada, before the Department of the Secretary of State on January 6th.

The American Performing Right Society, which supervises royalty rights on South American music, a field administered in Canada until now by the Canadian Performing Right Society, seeks to set up its own collection agency here to deal with theatres and radio. The Musical Protective Society, which represents those upon whom royalties are levied, is opposing permission and has already filed intention to contest the granting of a license.

It is the feeling of Canadian exhibitors, for whom the Musical

(Continued on Page 2)

'Meet the Navy' For Gotham Run?

"Meet the Navy," the Royal Canadian Navy show in which Paramount seems to have a special interest, may play a New York date and assign the profits to various American service relief organizations. Several theatre men looked at it last week to study the possibility of a New York appearance.

The show was the idea of Commander John Farrow, RCN, retired, now at Paramount.

'His Butler's Sister' offers DEANNA DURBIN, bigger than ever at the boxoffice and better than ever on the screen. Canada's most popular star is supported by Franchot Tone, Pat O'Brien and Alan Mowbray. Ready now for Christmas booking across Canada through EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL.

Pioneer Session Elects New Board

(Continued from Page 1)

board will convene later to elect officers.

Seven members of last year's board retain their positions and four new names were added. The board is made up of Clair Hague, Syd Taube, Ray Lewis, Archie Laurie, Charles Mavety, Walter Kennedy and Alf Perry, who were on last year's list, and Tom Daley, Leo Devaney, Jack Arthur and Morris Stein, who were elected at this meeting.

Hal Hode, of the American Picture Pioneers, came up from New York to address the meeting and spoke to the film men, many of whom had also come from far away places to be present.

The meeting was followed by a dinner at which members were joined by out-of-town guests for several hours of amusement and sentimental reminiscences.

The Canadian Picture Pioneers is part of an international body of film veterans, the requirement for membership being 25 years of continuous service in the industry. The organization was founded by a number of industry veterans who felt that old-timers needed the protection of a benevolent organization. The rapid growth of the Pioneers in every city, to its present stature, attests to the worthiness of the original idea.

NOW BOOKING

E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM'S Novel

'THE AMAZING ADVENTURE'

featuring

Cary Grant

★

Astor Pictures Canada Ltd.

TORONTO

21 Dundas Square
AD. 2523

MONTREAL

5791 Monkland Ave.
EL. 9710

Irving Sourkes, Mgr.

ST. JOHN WINNIPEG

VANCOUVER

Paper Cut Kills Heralds, Cards

(Continued from Page 1)

take place or on a 24 sheet poster panel, or in or on a public passenger conveyance." The effect of Section 11 is to limit ordinary types of theatre ad material to 25 pounds per month, with the exception of those used for display on the premises or on public passenger conveyances.

Some claim that, according to the order, an exhibitor is prevented from displaying ads other than in the manner mentioned in Section 10—but there is nothing to stop general distribution by delivery, handouts at the theatre or the use of the mails. This is small comfort, since not many more than 2,000 heralds can be taken out of 25 pounds of stock and many theatres change twice and thrice weekly.

Rural theatres, which advertise in an area of 20 miles or more, are thus limited in their chief means of advising the public of their attraction. "Public conveyance" means little in the country. Such areas are circulated by weekly papers, which are insufficient, and radio advertising is too expensive.

Small city neighborhood houses are also hurt. The newspapers have reduced printed readers and on occasion omitted the show directory, so this new curtailment makes theatres almost mute beyond their own confines.

Theatres in the hinterlands, already affected by population shifts towards larger centres and gasoline rationing, will be hurt further. Those houses in the prairie provinces where patronage has been cut into by 16mm. and tax-free shows, have had their only available means of competing for public interest removed.

Theatre men, along with printers, feel that the new regulations were poorly arranged. Some expressed the opinion that the necessary paper might have been saved by restricting the newspapers to one edition a day, considering the role that radio plays in disseminating news today. Neither printers nor customers were consulted before the order was framed.

Those affected agree that effective means to meet the pulp shortage must be taken but point out that a similar order, about to be issued in the USA, will not be effective for several weeks after this one. Most of the USA's paper comes from Canada and the position is that Canadian needs should be given first consideration.

Meanwhile the few printers who work on theatre show and window cards are each stuck with a couple of tons of box board.

Film Men on Stand At Naiman Inquest

(Continued from Page 1)

William Travers, Regal shipper, explained to Dr. Smirle Lawson, chief coroner, that naked film had been stored on racks and in barrels because the limited number of containers had to be used for new prints.

Brown said that there were nearly 1,800 pounds of naked film in one of the three Regal vaults in the basement and that three barrels and two boxes of scrap film ready for shipment stood close to the vaults. Travers told C. K. Hope, K.C., appearing for the Crown, that 600 reels, amounting to 2,400 pounds, of naked film were on racks in another basement vault on the night of the fire. This was old film waiting to be scrapped.

Film in the barrels and that mentioned by Travers as being on racks had not been damaged during the fire.

The witnesses had seen nothing that might cause a fire. Travers stated that he believed the vault vents to be working, having checked the usual indication, the breeze which came from outlets on the roof.

"It is pretty dangerous to have a film exchange in a building of six or eight stories," said Dr. Smirle Lawson. Questioned on this point, Winslow Brown, supported Dr. Lawson's opinion that two-storey buildings were better from a safety standpoint.

Thirty-three witnesses have been subpoenaed by J. B. Houston, Fire Marshall, among them O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection branch of Ontario, and H. L. Nathanson, head of Regal.

Dr. Jocelyn Rogers, Provincial government analyst, expressed his doubts that film gas had caused the fire, which may have been started by defective wiring.

Will Oppose New Music Royalties

(Continued from Page 1)

Protective Society is the representative in such matters, that should the newcomers be granted the right to collect one-half to two cents per seat per annum—or any part of it—the sum should be deducted from the fees paid to the Canadian Performing Right Society. There is no objection to the present fees of that organization but strong opposition is being offered to any total increase of fees, no matter from how many sources the final amount is collected.

Admission prices to theatres are frozen in Canada and WPTB restrictions should extend to royalties as well. This is a logical position, in view of the recent explanation of a WPTB spokesman that the main idea is to keep prices to the basic period, even if it is necessary to freeze or control everything which bears on them.

Entry of the American Performing Right Society into the Canadian field will alter the premise upon which the present royalty arrangement is based. His Honor Judge Parker, after he was appointed to investigate the operations of the Canadian Performing Right Society and similar societies, returned certain recommendations. In his report, dated 1935, he wrote:

"The recommendations that have been made are based upon the fact that the Canadian Performing Right Society is the only Society operating in Canada. If another Society having a substantial repertoire were to enter into competition with the Canadian Performing Right Society there would necessity have to be some revision of its tariffs."

The American Performing Right Society claims to have rights to over 85 per cent of Latin music. Many films today feature that type of entertainment and Canada's 700,000 theatre seats would cause a substantial sum to be paid if permission to apply a levy is granted.

Film men are prominent in the Musical Protective Society, which held its annual meeting at the offices of the distributor's association on November 26th. At this meeting T. J. Bragg, of Odeon Theatres was chosen chairman of the board, Col. John A. Cooper, of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association, was re-appointed treasurer, and Syd B. Taube of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario, was made secretary.

President for the coming year is J. W. Connell, and Glen Bannerman will act as vice-president.

Film Weekly

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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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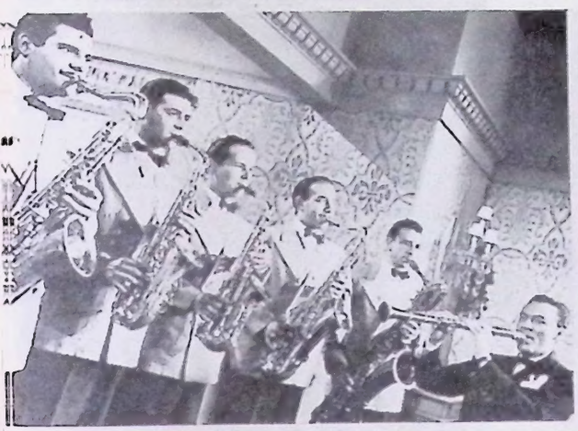
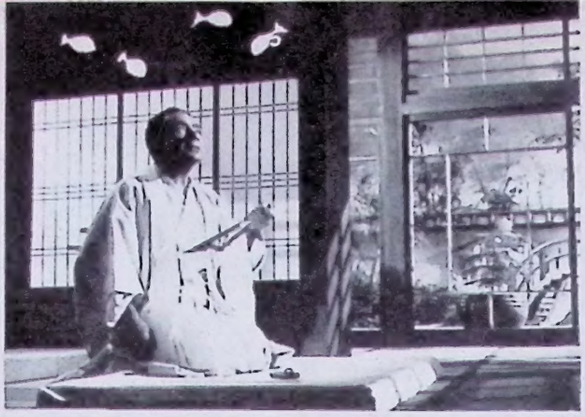
Sonja Henie's Ace Ice Musical Is 20th-Fox's 'Wintertime'

Sonja Henie gives the patron her finest acting and action performance to date. Added to that Fox has made "Wintertime" safe against bad BO weather by heaping on spectacle, music and comedy.

Jack Oakie, S. Z. Sakall and Cesar Romero are liberal with the laughs, Woody Herman and His Orchestra pour out the music and the spectacular stuff, along with everything else, is presented against a Quebec background. Carol Landis is the film's other female star and Cornel Wilde is the male love interest.



RKO'S 'Behind the Rising Sun' Has Novelty, Horror and Action

RKO has made a very good try at following up the success of "Hitler's Children" with a similar idea, this time against a Japanese background. Though the film tells what makes Japs like that and shows them at it, it also makes the point that not all of them have been swept away by the terrible influence of their leaders.

It's frankly a shocker. Margo, Tom Neal, Robert Ryan, J. Carrol Naish, Gloria Holden do their share to help the excellent production move into class of the good gross getters.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 8, No. 50 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK December 8, 1943

'Hostages'

with Luise Rainer, William Bendix, Paul Lukas

Paramount 88 Mins.

THIS ONE HAS ENOUGH MARQUEE NAMES TO OVERCOME HANDICAP OF FAMILIARITY OF ITS MATERIAL.

Nazi villainy, the underground, sabotage, hostages. Again these elements have been combined for the purpose of film entertainment. The pattern scarcely varies. Repetition has made the story terribly familiar by now. It takes the finest effort in every department to make the theme palatable and a box office asset at this stage of the game.

"Hostages" is far from the best of the films of its type. It starts out promisingly enough but gets badly out of hand before it advances very far. It is fortunate that in spite of everything the film manages to retain a certain quality of excitement and suspense. The picture has some fine isolated scenes vibrant with drama which will help the production get over the hump.

Also to the film's advantage are several attractive performances from a cast which contains enough marquee power to make a big difference at the box office. These include portrayals by William Bendix, Oscar Homolka, Paul Lukas and Reinhold Schunzel. These run away with the acting glory. The film does not gain as much as it should from the performances of Luise Rainer and Katina Paxinou, the Greek actress. Miss Rainer lacks color and acts too much in one key. As for Miss Paxinou, she hasn't too much to do. Besides, her role is rather cut-and-dried.

The excitement in "Hostages," which is set in Prague, starts when a German officer commits suicide by drowning himself in a river in back of a cafe. Insisting it's a case of murder, the Nazi hold the guests and personnel as hostages. To do this they have to tamper with the coroner's report. Most of the plot has to do with the efforts of the underground to free one of the hostages, Bendix, its brains. Miss Rainer plays the daughter of a hostage

Frank Tuttle has directed suspensefully.

CAST: Luise Rainer, William Bendix, Roland Varno, Oscar Homolka, Katina Paxinou, Paul Lukas, Arturo de Cordova, Reinhold Schunzel, Fred Giermann, Felix Basch, Michael Visaroff, Eric Feldary, John Mylong, Mikhail Rasmuny, Phillip Van Zandt, Rex Williams, Hans Conried, Louis Adlon, Richard Ryen, Kurt Neumann.

DIRECTION, All Right. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

'Submarine Base'

with John Litel, Fifi D'Orsay, Alan Baxter

PRC 65 Mins.

WELL PRODUCED, DIRECTED AND ACTED MELODRAMA PACKS PLENTY OF SUSPENSE.

Here is a melodrama well acted, produced and directed. Jack Schwartz handled the production chores, with Harry D. Edwards as associate producer. Albert Kelley's direction maintains the suspense to the end, while Marcel Le Picard's photography is splendid.

Alan Baxter, a fugitive from the law, operates off an island on the Equator, off Brazil. His "business" is furnishing torpedoes to Nazi submarines. One day he fishes John Litel out of the ocean. Litel, a former New York detective, now a member of the Merchant Marine, recognizes Baxter as a gangster.

Baxter holds Litel a prisoner on the island, and Litel soon becomes suspicious of Baxter's newly-found wealth. George Lee, an Englishman and long-time resident on the island, aids Litel. George Metaxa, a German agent, who pays Baxter for the torpedoes, begins to feel that Baxter is trying to "double-cross" him and the Germans, and has his suspicions fully confirmed when a Nazi submarine explodes off the island. Baxter had been supplying torpedoes, which were timed to explode a few hours after taking on a load. A gun battle follows, with Metaxa killing Baxter.

Eric Blore and Luis Alberni furnish the comedy, while Fifi D'Orsay, Iris Adrian and Jacqueline Dalya are among the members of the cast.

CAST: John Litel, Alan Baxter, Eric Blore, George Metaxa, George Lee, Rafael Storm, Fifi D'Orsay, Iris Adrian, Jacqueline Dalya, Anna Demetrio, Luis Alberni, Lucien Prival.

CREDITS: Jack Schwarz; Associate Producer, Harry D. Edwards; Leon Fromkess in charge of production; Director, Albert Kelley; Authors, Arthur St. Clair and George Merrick; Camerman, Marcel Le Picard; Musical Composer and Director, Charles Dant; Art Director, Frank Sylos; Editor, Holbrook H. Todd.

DIRECTION, Splendid. PHOTOGRAPHY, Excellent.

Famous to Pay Extra Dividend

Supplementing four 25 cent dividends paid in 1943, Famous Players Canadian Corporation last week declared a dividend of 50 cents a share payable December 31st to shareholders of record December 15th. This makes the total for the year $1.50 a share, the same as last year's total.

'Dancing Masters'

with Laurel and Hardy

20th-Fox 63 Mins.

LAUREL AND HARDY COMEDY SHOULD GIVE SATISFACTORY ACCOUNT OF ITSELF IN NEIGHBORHOODS.

"The Dancing Masters" offers good entertainment for the Laurel-Hardy fans, who will find plenty of opportunity for laughter. The comedy, to be sure, is hardly fresh; yet it is nonetheless sure-fire stuff for the admirers of the comic pair. Which is to say that the kids especially will be royally amused by the comedians' antics. This is no dish for the sophisticates; it was not intended to be.

This time we see the comedy stars as operators of a dancing school. Laurel teaches the ballet while Hardy takes care of the jive. Hardy takes out an accident policy on Laurel with a phony insurance company operated by a bunch of racketeers. Most of the fun has to do with the attempts of the comedians to raise enough money to promote an invention helpful to the presecution of the war. The inventor (Robert Bailey) is the sweetheart of one of their pupils (Trudy Marshall), whose father (Matt Briggs) is a rich industrialist. The father is opposed to the romance, wanting Miss Marshall to be married to a chap of his own choosing. Everything works out well when the industrialist changes his mind to the extent of financing Bailey's invention.

There is one sequence that appeals heavily to the child's love of action and excitement. It takes place aboard a runaway bus on which Laurel and Hardy are passengers. Director and author gave the sequence all the footage it could stand.

Mal St. Clair's direction makes for high animation. The picture was turned out by Lee Marcus. W. Scott Darling's screenplay was suggested by a yarn by George Bricker.

Miss Marshall, Bailey and Briggs lend the stars acceptable support.

CAST: Oliver Hardy, Stan Laurel, Trudy Marshall, Robert Bailey, Matt Briggs, Margaret Dumont, Allan Lane, Nestor Paiva, George Lloyd, Bob Mitchum, Edward Earle, Charles Rogers, Sherry Hall, Sam Ash, William Haade, Arthur Space, Daphne Pollard.

DIRECTION, Okay. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

'Strange Death Of Adolf Hitler'

Universal 72 Mins.

THIS ONE HAS NOVELTY TO RECOMMEND IT; PIC SHOULD DO WELL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTS.

"The Strange Death of Adolph Hitler" has the benefit of novelty, something that cannot be said for many pictures based on the war. While the theme, rooted in the oft-heard rumors that Hitler employs a double when occasion demands it, has not been developed to the full, it offers enough entertainment away from the commonplace to please most film-goers. Perhaps the prime fault to be found with the picture is that its plot becomes a bit confusing at times. That is something easily understandable in the face of the fact that Ludwig Donath is compelled to play both Hitler and his double. Often it isn't immediately clear who is who. Let it be said, however, that this shortcoming doesn't detract seriously from the entertainment.

Donath also has a third role to play, that of a Nazi-hating German who is seized by the Gestapo and made to appear physically like Hitler through facial surgery. What makes the Gestapo pick on him is the fact that he has the knack of imitating Hitler with uncanny accuracy. To lend effectiveness to its scheme the Gestapo makes it appear that the Nazi-hating Donath has been shot for treachery. The drama becomes intensified when the "widow" of the man who was transformed into the double sets out to "get" Hitler. The story is brought to an ironic end when the vengeful woman (Gale Sondergaard) shoots her own husband, thinking he is Hitler.

The film, which should no nicely in the neighborhood houses, has been directed well by James Hogan and produced capably by Ben Pivar.

Donath does exceedingly well with his difficult assignment. Clever makeup gives him a remarkable likeness to Hitler. Miss Sondergaard is good as his wife. Among others who acquit themselves with merit are Fritz Kortner and George Dolenz.

CAST: Ludwig Donath, Fritz Kortner, Gale Sondergaard, George Dolenz, Fred Giermann, William Trenk, Merrill Rodin, Charles Bates, Joan Blair, John Mylong, Kurt Kreuger, Rudolph Anders, Hans Schumm, Ivan Triesault, Lester Scharff, George Sorel, Trudy Berliner, Erno Verebes, Richard Ryen, Gene Stutenroth, Hans von Morhart, Hans von Twardowski.

DIRECTION, Okay. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

MONOGRAM PICTURES

OF CANADA LTD.
277 Victoria St.
Toronto

For

1943-1944

LADY LET'S DANCE

Starring the lovely BELITA in a gorgeous skating and dancing spectacle.

To be followed by a 2nd BELITA picture as yet unnamed.

★

WOMEN IN BONDAGE

(*formerly 'Hitler's Women'*)

The degradation of women under Nazi rule.

★

WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN

Youthful waywardness laid bare.

★

GROUND CREW

starring JACKIE COOPER in a mighty drama supercharged with battlefront action.

★

FIGHTING QUARTERMASTER

A booming saga of the Service of Supply

★

the fastest-growing Company in the industry

MONOGRAM PICTURES

Toronto Montreal St. John
Winnipeg Calgary Vancouver

A Gun at My Feet

I stood in the middle of a busy intersection a few days before the first snow fell and looked down at a revolver. It was an old-fashioned six-shooter type, like those used in cowboy films. My shoe had struck the barrel, for the weapon was imbedded in the asphalt. Dropped on a hot day, it had been slowly pressed into the sun-softened roadway by the wheels of many vehicles.

Then my eyes were drawn away by a nearly gleam and came to rest on a number of small objects shining dully against the black asphalt. Lost or discarded, they had been imprisoned. It was a common city scene.

That might easily be a symbolic picture of urban life before the war. Ways of life, like the objects in the asphalt, seem to have been ground into familiar patterns by the ever-whirling wheels of the machine age.

There is still a sameness about large cities, though the varied garb of the armed services has given novelty to the dress of the people and flags have brightened up the ogres of stone and steel that hover over everything. Old channels of thought, too, have been made livelier by the flow of new mechanical, scientific and social ideas.

But the impression of general conformity is still strong. This like-mindedness has conditioned people to accept ideas on a large scale, without examining their soundness or the source of them.

The means of entertainment and communication are a part of this pattern. But entirely new conceptions are finding their way into them and the post-war world may see more individual thinking than has ever been known before.

The desire of people and nations to retain and develop their individual characters has brought forth the most heroic resistance in the history of the world against those who would press everything into a single mold called the New Order.

We are inspired by a fear of obvious regimentation and the hope of a truer, more humanitarian civilization. Such principles have more appeal to the soul and will of mankind than conquest for the sake of conquest, as our enemies have found out.

An Infinite Variety

Something stops my train of thought. A key. Wonder to what it opened the way and what the people were like who lived or worked there? Look here, a brass button off a soldier's uniform. In what far off battlefront is its owner now? There's a hub cap, a screw, a bottle cap, part of a lipstick tube, a watch gear—oh, all kinds of stuff. That commonplace picture has become new and interesting.

That's where sameness ends and variety begins—in the individual character of every thing or person. For each has a unique story.

By now drivers are impatiently sounding their horns and people on the pavement are staring curiously at a man standing in the middle of a roadway apparently preoccupied with something on the ground.

As I turn to go about my business I take a last look at the revolver. It's a toy, the loss of which caused some imaginative youngster some unhappy moments. He, too, dreamed of an interesting future while only playing at life.

* * *

Fast Changeovers

Believe it or not, I got the best of Harry Price in a deal the other day. Harry was wearing a tie I liked and I conned him into changing with me—right on Yonge street at 12:30 noon. The flaw is that Harry still thinks he swindled me so don't wise him up. . . The flu had quite a few film fellows down—J. J. Fitzgibbons, Ben Geldsaler and Jim Nairn among them. . . I got a laugh out of a gag pulled by Oscar Levant at a Harpo Marx party. No napkins were provided so Levant explained to the guests that "from time to time a woolly dog will pass among you."

Board of Trade Studies 16 Mm's

(Continued from Page 1)

should not be used by distributors in any way that may assist in the promotion or rental of 35 mm. films. Any dispute in respect to competition arising out of the showing of 16 mm. films will be referred to the Industry Relations Committee.

W. A. Perry moved the resolution, which was seconded by N. A. Taylor. The discussion arose out of a recent declaration of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario, which protested such practices.

R. W. Bolstad was elected chairman for the coming year, succeeding Louis Rosenfeld, and Sydney Samson became vice-president. With the exception of the Industry Relations Committee, to which William Redpath was added, the personnel of all committees will be the same. Samson assumed the duties of chairman during the latter part of the meeting.

A committee consisting of Leo Devaney, S. B. Taube and Nat Taylor was appointed to discuss Order No. 332, which curtails advertising, with the chairman of that section of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

A resolution of condolence, to be forwarded to the families of three deceased members, was adopted. During the year N. L. Nathanson, J. P. O'Loghlin and C. M. Robson passed away.

The report of the year's activities was presented by Louis Rosenfeld and accepted by the meeting.

In behalf of the Motion Picture Branch J. J. Fitzgibbons presented F. D. Tolchard, secretary-treasurer, with a Victory Bond as a token of appreciation for his help. Tolchard expressed his thanks, saying that being associated with the motion picture industry gave him a great deal of personal pleasure.

Important War Aid Post to Salamis

Mr. B. C. Salamis, owner of the Fairyland and Laval Theatres, and Secretary of the Greek War Relief Fund, has been appointed Canadian Representative of the Greek Red Cross in Foreign Countries, which has headquarters in London. He will act as liaison officer among the Greek Red Cross, the Greek War Relief Fund and the Canadian Red Cross Society.

All are collaborating in the dispatch to occupied Greece of food and medical supplies, financed by Canadians' subscriptions to the Greek War Relief Fund.

IT'S ALWAYS FAIR WEATHER WHEN GOOD SHOWMEN AND GOOD SHOWS GET TOGETHER!

THE Paramount Picture

EXTRA
PLAYING TIME IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY WITH PARAMOUNT PRODUCT!

VOL. 2 (ADVT.) The Lowdown on the Production and Distribution of the Best Shows in Town! NO. 6

A Paramount Musical For Xmas

Arturo De Cordova, Latin American star who turns in a remarkable performance in Paramount's "Hostages," has the male lead in the forthcoming "Frenchman's Creek."

NEWS FROM THE STUDIOS

Alan Ladd, following a year's service, was honorably discharged from the American army last month. He will return to the screen as the male star of Paramount's picturization of Rachel Field's novel, "And Now Tomorraw." Loretta Young will co-star.

Right after enacting a South Pacific war saga, Gary Cooper is now in the midst of the real thing. Accompanied by Una Merkel and Phyllis Brooks, the tall star has arrived in Australia on the first leg of an entertainment tour of the battle fronts. Cooper has just completed work on C. B. De Mille's "The Story of Dr. Wassell," in which he portrays Commander Wassell who won the American Navy Cross and drew a tribute from President Roosevelt for his heroic work in the evacuation of Java.

Diana Lynn, 16-year-old actress, who has just completed "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," has a new Paramount contract.

Holiday Crowds Will Welcome 'Riding High' in Festive Season

Paramount's "Riding High" will be a real Technicolored, Christmas boxoffice for the exhibitors. With every successful ingredient known to the industry rolled up in its all too short footage, "Riding High" is not only the answer to the public's demand for "get-away-from-it-all" entertainment but satisfies the exhibitors' plea for something new at the boxoffice.

Paramount spared nothing in the making of "Riding High." There are lavish sets made more lavish by the beautiful Technicolor, a gold mine in songs simple enough in their melodies for the patrons to catch them quickly, comedy situations that rival some of the best that Hope and Crosby have ever thought up, plus a love story that blends with the picture all the way through.

The bevy of beautiful girls that make two of the production sets outstanding would put to shame the best the Powers and Conovers could offer. As the Film Daily says: "Mark this musical attraction down as ace popular entertainment headed for the heavy takes." Variety's reviewer says: "In toto it represents plenty of wampum at the wickets—extended runs and high grosses."

The concensus of opinion seems to be that "Riding High" has plenty of music and laughter for which the customers are clamoring. Book it NOW!

Husky BO For 'True to Life'

"True to Life," Paramount's smash comedy hit, is giving a good account of itself at boxoffices across the Dominion. Featuring Mary Martin, Dick Powell, Franchot Tone, Victor Moore and a host of other well-known names, it is registering ahead of Paramount's "Happy Go Lucky," which was a hit in any showman's language.

Probably one of the most amusing pictures to be shown in this country for some time, "True to Life" is intriguingly hooked up to Twentieth Century action, yet never so much as hints at the war. Every exhibitor who seeks the goodwill of his patrons will book this ace of laughter films.

Sonny Tufts in New Para Film

Under the direction of Mark Sandrich, Sonny Tufts, new Paramount discovery, is hard at work on "I Love a Soldier" (previously titled "When I Come Back.") Tufts is playing opposite Paulette Goddard with whom he was teamed in "So Proudly We Hail." The story was especially written for Goddard and Tufts by Allan Scott who did the Sandrich production of "So Proudly."

Tufts has also been cast to play the romantic lead in the forthcoming Technicolor musical "Bring on the Girls," which also stars Veronica Lake. Sydney Lanfield will direct Tufts in this picture.

Special Raves for Swell Para Short

We doubt if there has ever been a better tradepaper review of a short published in the last five years than the following on "Caribbean Romance," which appeared in Film Daily.

"The second in the series of two-reel Technicolor musical specials being turned out by Paramount is even better than the first 'Mardi Gras' which was itself a nifty. This high budget short into which is crammed enough entertainment to meet the needs of a feature, will cause plenty of talk. The film deserves all the time that the exhibitor can give it. An unalloyed delight, the footage mixes comedy and romance in a gay melange featuring songs and dances of Latin America.

"In every respect the short merits raves. Walter MacEwen has gone all out in producing it."

Dick Powell and Dorothy Lamour, along with Cass Daley, Victor Moore, Gil Lamb and Milt Britton's band, deliver a picture that should spell good news at the ticket wicket. With plenty of songs, catchy lyrics and a refreshing romantic story, "Riding High" is a Technicolored Christmas box for the boxoffice.

TO PLANT AND BUILDING OWNERS

(Under Order-in-Council 6373)

It is now an
OFFENCE
to waste
COAL *or* HEAT

● In the present coal emergency it is imperative that operators of all large public and private buildings abide by the new regulations which make it an offence to waste coal or heat. Coal consumption in commercial, industrial and institutional buildings, including offices, factories, warehouses, stores, apartment houses, and hotels, can and *must* be reduced.

Here are some primary causes of waste:

1. Overheating of building.
2. Unnecessary opening of windows and doors.
3. Faulty heating equipment.
4. Leaking valves, traps and connections.
5. Inefficient operation of heating system.

Have your entire heating system thoroughly checked over at once by a competent engineer.

APPOINT A COAL WARDEN

To see that every possible conservation measure is taken in your buildings, you are urged to appoint a Coal Warden. Select the man in your own organization who is best equipped to do the job, and make it his responsibility to bring to your attention instances of waste.

Save one ton in five

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

HONOURABLE C. D. HOWE, Minister

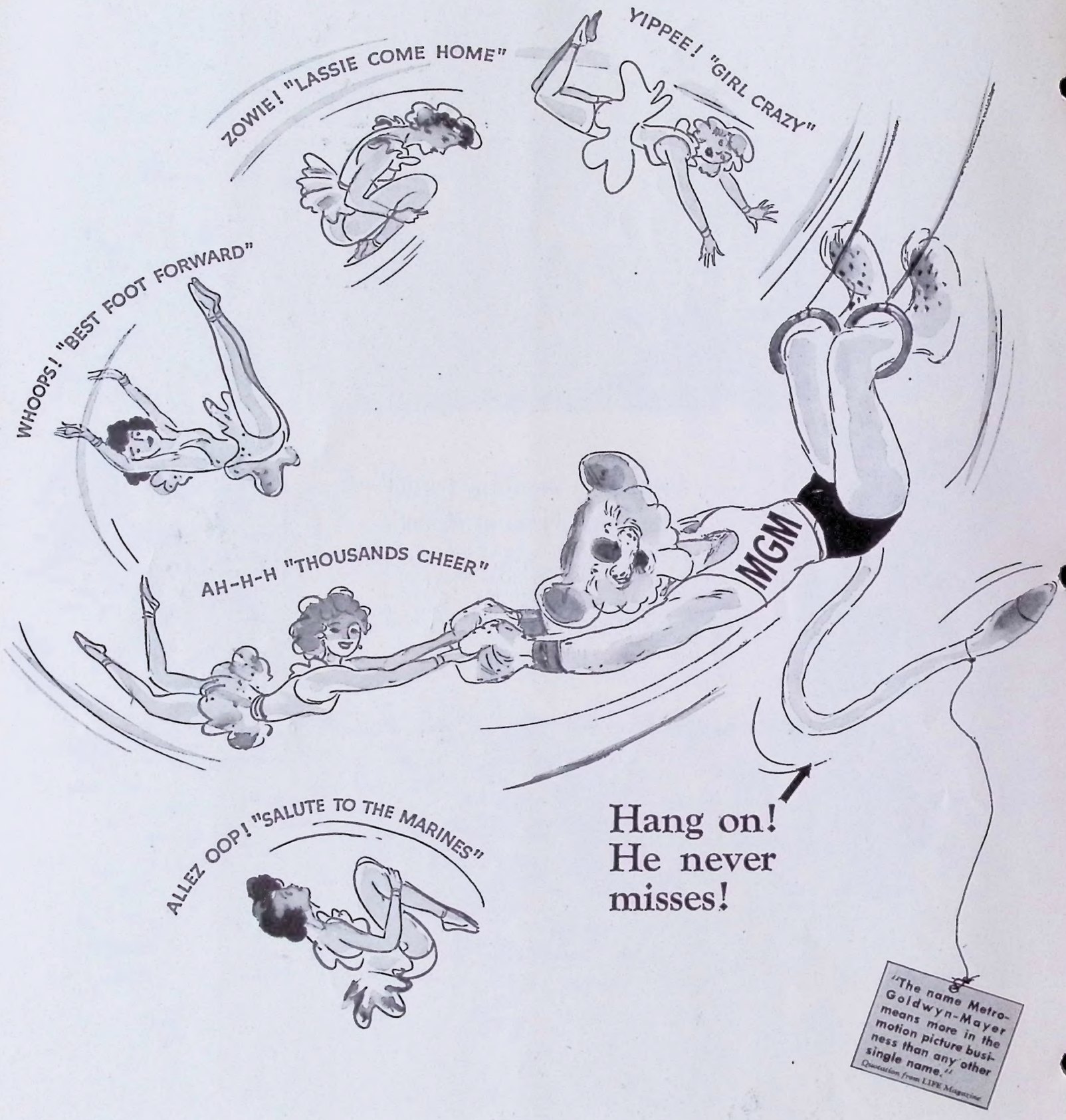
M521

Vitagraph's 'Northern Pursuit' Stars Errol Flynn as Mountie

Errol Flynn, a consistently strong boxoffice attraction, is featured in "Northern Pursuit" against a Canadian background, which gives the film special native appeal.

Supporting Flynn in this story of an intended air raid on the Welland Canal by a sub-delivered plane are such popular favorites as Julie Bishop, Gene Lockhart, Helmut Dantine and many others.

It should keep the ticket-taker busy.


ZOWIE! "LASSIE COME HOME"
YIPPEE! "GIRL CRAZY"
WHOOPS! "BEST FOOT FORWARD"
AH-H-H "THOUSANDS CHEER"
MGM
ALLEZ OOP! "SALUTE TO THE MARINES"
Hang on!
He never
misses!
"The name Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer means more in the motion picture business than any other single name."
Quotation from LIFE Magazine

General Theatre's Big Bond Issue

(Continued from Page 1)

$250,000 4½ per cent sinking fund bonds maturing Dec. 1, 1955. Both of the above issues are priced at par and accrued interest.

The company owns nine motion picture theatres in Vanvouver and environs. Seven of these theatres are leased to and operated by Famous Players Canadian Corporation Limited and the other two are leased to and operated by Odeon Theatres of Canada, Limited.

Company revenues are largely derived from rental of the properties; also from investments valued at $399,937.

Average earnings for the three years ending Dec. 31, 1942, available for interest on the new issues after all charges, including depreciation, and provision for income and excess profits taxes amounted to $84,052, equal to over four times annual interest requirements.

The issue is being offered through W. C. Pitfield & Company, Ltd., who maintain offices in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Saint John, Halifax and Moncton.

Must Move Quebec Theatre 75 Feet

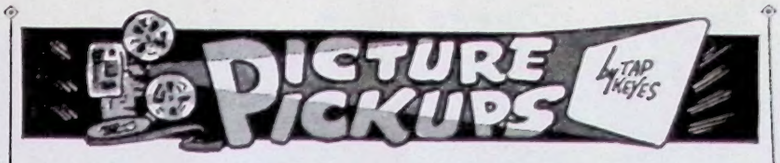
Officers of the summer fair at Sherbrooke, Quebec, have asked the City Council to order the moving of the Century Theatre 75 feet back from the road leading to the fair. Under the terms of an agreement made at the time of the theatre's construction in 1937, this order must be carried out.

Simcoe Town Council Bans Midnight Shows

A by-law regulating the hours of theatres, dance halls and other places of amusement so that they will no longer be able to present midnight shows, was passed last week by the Simcoe, Ontario, town council. The regulation does not apply to any performance given by charitable or patriotic organizations.

Hitler Captures Marshall Rommel

Swedish radio reports that Paramount's "Five Graves to Cairo," has just been opened in Berlin before an audience comprising Der Fuerher, Marshall Rommel and many other high-ranking personages. According to Stockholm, the Nazis captured a print and though the place and date of capture haven't been revealed, it is regarded as the outstanding German conquest of recent months.



Sketches in Sulphuric Acid—No. 7

These press releases were written by a movie publicity man while suffering from Acute Blurbitis, a condition resulting from slow saccharine seepage. The effect of Acute Blurbitis is violent revulsion, leading to reversal of customary conduct. The publicity man has now fully recovered and is back in line but his soul, in the form of these uninhibited expressions, goes marching on. The persons and events depicted herein are fictitious and any resemblance to living persons is purely coincidental—except in such cases where someone recognizes himself and is foolish enough to admit it by getting mad publicly.

SCREEN WRITER

Wilbur Shmaltzgreeb, who wrote the screenplay of "Gone With the Windbag" and other notable productions, has just been renewed by Elba Studios with a seven-year all-option no-contract deal. He is currently busy preparing his original story, "The Brothers Kalamazoo," for early production. The film, to be directed by Gregor Kuchka, will star the screen's most popular love team, Ana Thema and Mischa Mashoona.

Screen rights to "The Brothers Kalamazoo" (not the real title, by the way) will cost Elba nothing, since it was in the public domain—a street corner trash can, to be specific. Wilbur, who still has his pre-Hollywood habits, was poking around the civic receptacle and came upon a tattered old book by an unknown foreigner. He changed the title and the locale, the action now taking place in modern Michigan instead of darkest Russia.

Wilbur, being a republican, doesn't believe in royalties. He figures that by this time the real author has probably hocked his typewriter for the initiation fee to the Dishwashers' Union, preferring to work in a place where eating is an ordinary occurrence.

Dimout or no, Wilbur has been lit up since the celebration of Admiral Dewey's homecoming. Now known as Johnny One Shot, there was a time when he slugged the stuff the clock around. One shot is enough now because Wilbur is a victim of self-renewing saturation. His friends, when commercial sources of liquor are cut off, get their supply by tossing Wilbur into a washtub and stamping on him in the manner of Sicilian peasants beating out wine.

Wilbur's one-shot limit hasn't interfered with his continual wooziness. This is because his nose is built so close to his mouth. He talks so much that an unending draft of alcohol fumes is created which keeps him free wheeling. It's the closest thing to perpetual motion yet discovered.

His didoes are a legend in Hollywood. He is reputed to be Kraft-Ebbing's famed Mr. X and it's said that trying to figure him out gave Freud an inferiority complex. When plastered, his inhibitions vanish and he is his real self, giving expression to his innermost desires. Once, in that state, he was caught robbing his own trunk.

But mainly Wilbur imagines himself back in his childhood days and this led him to writing for the screen. High and uninhibited, he chanced on Joe Wagg, Filmland's famed practical joker, in a bar-room and invited him to join in his (Wilbur's) favorite boyhood game, that of scribbling dirty words on tombstones. Joe, for a gag, introduced Wilbur to Napoleon Klainer, production chief of Elba, as an outstanding "crypt" writer.

Klainer figured "crypt, script, shmipt, as long as he's healthy." He asked Wilbur for a story and was told the only one the latter knew, that of Cinderella. Never having heard it before, Klainer hired Wilbur to write it for the screen, suggesting with a showman's instinct, that the name of the leading character be changed to Peggy Pushkin and a girdle be substituted for the glass slipper.

Wilbur has written the same story six times each year for seven years. Because of alcoholic confusion it comes out with a new twist each time. He is expected to receive a special Oscar at the next Academy dinner for being the most consistently original writer in Hollywood.

Producers Releasing Corporation Limited
P.R.C.
H. J. ALLEN, President

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Rosemary Lane
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